0-20 (Rev. 7-27-67)

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

.PI-69
(RAY)

MEMPHIS--JAMES EARL RAY, HINTING A CONSPIRACY EXISTED, PLED GUILTY TODAY TO THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

RAY WAS THE ONLY PERSON IN COURT TO SUGGEST OTHERS MAY HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE APRIL 4, 1968 SNIPER SLAYING OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER.

RAY PLED GUILTY IN A DEAL WITH THE PROSECUTION THAT HE WILL BE SENTENCED TO 99 YEARS IN THE TENNESSEE STATE PRISON AT NASHVILLE, INSTEAD OF TAKING THE CHANCE THAT A JURY MIGHT SENTENCE HIM TO DEATH IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR.

A JURY OF 12 MEN, TWO OF THEM NEGROES, WAS SELECTED FROM THE FIRST 12 NAMES ON THE JURY LIST. EACH JUROR AGREED TO THE DEAL, AND ALL 12 WERE SWORN IN AT 10:05 A.M. CST, ONLY 20 MINUTES AFTER THE TRIAL BEGAN.

3/10--SW1220PES

REC'D FBI JACKSON
10 MAR 13 1969

Will
Just got sentenced May be
eligible for parole?

REC 11 3 0961-5602

20 MAR 13 1969

DE Loach to
3/11/69 KEL; jms

COPY MADE FOR MR. TOLSON

79 MAR 18 1969

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